

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, MARR, PR

SUBJECT: GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. USNATO 3944

B. STATE 177703

1. DEPUTY SYG PANSA HELD A PRIVATE MEETING OF THE DPC MORNING JULY 29 TO DISCUSS PROCEEDURES FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE ON GREECE-NATO RELATIONS. PANSA SAID THE GREEK PERMREP HAD INFORMED HIM GREEKS WOULD BE PREPARED TO START NEGOTIATIONS AFTER SEPTEMBER 15 AND HAD ASKED PANSA TO SET A PRECISE DATE THAT WOULD BE CONVENIENT TO OTHER MEMBERS. REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING GREECE-NATO RELATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR, PANSA SAID HE BELIEVED THAT NATO MEMBERS SHOULD PROCEED FROM THE POSITIONS THAT THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO WHICH EXISTED BEFORE GREECE DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM NATOS INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE. SINCE THE GREEKS WANTED CHANGES, THE INITIATIVE FOR WORKING OUT A NEW RELATIONSHIP SHOULD COME FROM THE GREEKS. THE IS AND IMS HAD DONE SOME PREPARATORY WORK IN THE WAY OF RESEARCH, BUT HAD MADE NO EFFORT TO COME UP WITH A POSITION
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PAPER SINCE THEY DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THE GREEKS WANTED. PANSA RECALLED THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAD PROVIDED THE GREEKS ON SEPT 27, 1974 WITH A DETAILED LIST OF ISSUES RELEVANT TO POSSIBLE GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATOS

MILITARY STRUCTURE AND SAID IT WAS NOW UP TO THE GREEKS TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN ON THE LIST THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAD PROVIDED. (PANSMA MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE "SMALL GROUP" MEETINGS WHICH TOOK PLACE THIS SPRING UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DEAN DE SSTAERCKE.)

2. DURING THE ENSUING DISCUSSION ON PROCEDURES, MENZIES (CANADA) URGED FURTHER PRELIMINARY INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GREEKS TO AVOID MOVING ABRUPTLY TO AN ON THE RECORD MEETING WHERE THE GREEKS MIGHT SET FORTH A FORMAL PAPER FROM WHICH THEY MIGHT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BACK OFF DURING NEGOTIATIONS. ERALP (TURKEY) INSISTED THAT EXPLORATIONS OF GREEK INTENTIONS SHOULD NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE GREEK POSITION. AMBASSADOR BRUCE (US) SAID THE US WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROGRESS TOWARD CLARIFYING GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO WHICH WE BELIEVED SHOULD KEEP PACE WITH OUR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GREEKS. HE SUGGESTED THAT PANSMA SOUND OUT THE GREEKS ON WHAT KIND OF PRESENTATION THE GREEKS INTEND TO MAKE WHEN NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN.

3. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, PANSMA CONCLUDED THAT A CONSENSUS FAVORED SETTING SEPT 18 AS A DATE FOR A MEETING OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE DPC WITH THE GREEK PERMREP FOR AN INITIAL PRESENTATION OF GREEK VIEWS. THE DPC WOULD PROBABLY NOT WISH TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE ON GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO BUT WOULD MANDATE AN INFORMAL AD HOC GROUP TO WORK ON SUBSTANCE. PANSMA WOULD SOUND OUT THE GREEK PERMREP ON THE FORM AND PROCEDURES FOR THE GREEK PRESENTATION AND WOULD HOLD ANOTHER PRIVATE MEETING OF THE DPC IN LATE AUGUST TO AGAIN REVIEW PROCEDURAL ISSUES. PANSMA ALSO REMARKED THAT AMBASSADOR THEODORPOULOS, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM ATHENS, HAD SAID HE FOUND A BETTER DISPOSITION TOWARD NATO IN GREECE THEN EARLIER THIS YEAR. BRUCE

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